

# THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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## GREETINGS

To its critics who entertain and instruct, to the advertisers who are appreciative and life sustaining, to its enemies whatever may be the cause of their complaint and discontent, to the grand friends who are its inspiration in times of joy and grief, to the army of boosters of St. Joseph, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska who are a stimulant and spur, to the good men and women who carry the message of The Master into thousands of homes at Yuletide, to the great OBSERVER family of men, women and children everywhere—this newspaper extends sincere wishes for a large measure of prosperity, progress and achievement during the New Year of 1916.

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER.

## ST. JOSEPH DECORATIONS

They Are Far Superior To Those Of Any City in the United States

"St. Joseph is the most handsomely decorated city that I have seen in my travels this year," remarked a New York traveling man who makes only the large cities of the country, as he talked to a group of fellow travelers in the Robidoux lobby last night.

"During the two weeks just past I have been in Omaha, Sioux City, Denver, Salt Lake, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and here," he continued, "and in all of those cities none can come within a thousand miles of St. Joseph in point of decoration and illumination. Why, your street illumination is simply grand—it is past description. None of the other cities I have visited have anything that will come up to it half way, and I can tell you that it makes a man feel at home and makes him know that the Christmas time is here when he is in St. Joseph. You certainly have enterprise here."

The credit of St. Joseph's splendid illumination is due to the enterprise of General Manager J. H. Van Brunt of the street railway system, for it is he who is furnishing all of the electric power free of charge, the business people of the city being only obliged to pay the cost of putting up and taking down the illuminations. St. Joseph has certainly been well advertised by this stroke of enterprise on the part of its street railway manager.

## WINNER BUYS THE O. K.

And It May Mean a New Electric Line to Kansas City Via the Gower Branch

A deal was made the other day which may mean that St. Joseph may soon have another electric line to Kansas City.

W. E. Winner, who has done much in the line of railway promotion, has purchased what is known as the Gower branch of the O. K. railway, which extends from Tribune to Gower and was formerly a part of the St. Joseph & Grand Island Kansas City line, but which that company abandoned about a year and a half ago. Since the Grand Island discontinued service on the line it has lain dormant, but the purchase of it by Winner indicates that it will soon be put into use.

The impression prevails that the line will be electrified and will be made a part of a new electric system between St. Joseph and Kansas City. This will restore to St. Joseph the heavy trade that was cut off when the Grand Island discontinued its service through that rich and heavily populated section.

## GREAT IS MISSOURI

Lonely Man of 94, Father of 41 Children, Weds Fourth Wife, 39 Years Old

Springfield, Mo., Dec. 29.—B. Davis, 94 years old, said to be the father of forty-one children, thirty-three of whom are living, was married today in Cabool, Mo., to Mrs. M. Macon, 39. Davis previously had been married three times. He has been in good health and declared he was getting lonesome. Twenty children of Davis and more than 100 of his grandchildren attended the ceremony.

## For They Could Retreat

The allies couldn't take the Gallipoli Peninsula but they have demonstrated that the Turks and Germans couldn't prevent them from withdrawing.—St. Louis Times.

## KANSAS CITY THIRD

The Windy City at the Mouth of the Kaw Falls Down Below South Omaha As a Stock Market

Kansas City has lost one its greatest claims to commercial supremacy—that of the second largest livestock market of the country, which title it has so proudly flaunted for several years past—and what is worse to the windy citizens of the Windy City at the Kaw's mouth, it has lost to a hated rival—South Omaha, which now holds second place in the livestock markets of the world.

This is shown by the report of the Nebraska railway commission, which was made public yesterday, and which gives the actual figures. It is a sad bump for the windjammers at the Kaw's mouth, who have for years claimed everything in sight—and out of sight.

The report says that of the seven leading markets of the country, Chicago leads them all in cattle, hog and sheep receipts. Omaha is third in cattle receipts, and second in hog and sheep receipts.

Kansas City trails along third with the second prize in cattle receipts and third prize in both the hog and sheep columns.

The following tabulation shows the figures which the railway commission collected in its search:

Cattle Receipts	
1915	1914
Chicago.....2,657,224	2,639,367
Kansas City.....1,311,893	1,959,749
Omaha.....1,203,307	926,694
St. Louis.....994,725	1,202,330
Sioux City.....520,548	359,554
St. Joseph.....447,325	350,686
Denver.....425,091	444,432

Hog Receipts	
1915	1914
Chicago.....7,479,623	6,504,621
Omaha.....2,545,210	2,267,384
Kansas City.....2,439,385	2,323,683
St. Louis.....2,529,067	2,619,046
Sioux City.....1,644,752	1,229,983
St. Joseph.....1,646,614	1,740,539
Denver.....326,883	252,422

Sheep Receipts	
1915	1914
Chicago.....3,633,157	5,459,345
Omaha.....3,214,585	3,147,434
Kansas City.....1,800,206	2,052,545
St. Louis.....637,322	782,423
Sioux City.....347,246	397,984
St. Joseph.....867,892	825,292
Denver.....784,672	684,498

And some more wind is thus deflected from the Kansas City bladder.

## DID A GOOD JOB

Richard Wade Puts a Damper On the Gentle Art of "Stick-'em-Up, Gentlemen"

The gentle art of "stick-'em-up, gentlemen" was given a rude and startling set-back in St. Joseph about 1 o'clock Monday morning when John W. Luppy of Tulsa, Okla., and "Skeets" Young of no place in particular, who, with their faces ornamented with white cloth masks, and big 44 guns in their hands, stepped into Jim Hurley's Senate club rooms at No. 512½ Edmond street, and in not-to-be-mistaken tones ordered the occupants of the room to stick up their hands and submit to being robbed.

Buzz Richardson, Jim Hurley, Hank Wisler and one or two others either fainted and fell back in it, or complied. Not so with Richard Wade, who ducked beneath a table and opened fire. When the smoke cleared away "Skeets" was as dead as could be wished and Luppy had a bullet through him which just grazed his heart and which will keep him in the hospital for some time, after which he will face Judge Ryan on a highway robbery charge.

Richard Wade did St. Joseph a real service—the only effective kind with hold-up artists. There has been no hold-up since that time, and there will be few more for a long time to come.

## BILLY SKIDMORE IN NEW ERA

How dear to our hearts is the old advertiser,

Who runs his stuff fifty-two weeks in the year; He turns up on Monday with good, snappy copy

And drives out the blues with his laughter and cheer.

He never says "Kill it, the people won't read it. It don't do no good," nor "I can't stand the pace."

But comes to the front (with his check) like a major, And sometimes says "Bill, better double that space."

Oh, the old advertiser, the good advertiser, The safe advertiser, we all love so well!

—Skidmore New Era.

## HE SOURED ON HIS FRIEND'S FRIEND

Justice Shepard Will Not Endorse Checks for Friendship in the Future

## NOT WITHOUT GOOD SECURITY AT LEAST

A Former Well-Known St. Joseph Man Caused the Kansas City Limb of the Law to Lose All of the Money That He Had Saved Up With Which to Buy Christmas Presents, and the Aforesaid Deficit Caused Bad Feelings Toward Bill Clark Who Was Arrested Here

T. J. (better known as "Tim") Bohannon, who, a short time ago, conducted a thirst parlor and also an eating house on Illinois avenue in South St. Joseph, but whose present whereabouts are not distinctly and definitely known, pulled off a little stunt in Kansas City a few days before Christmas, the sequel of which was the arrest of W. E. Clark by the police of this city on Christmas day and his subsequent transportation to Kansas City, where Clark is now awaiting trial. Clark was arrested in South St. Joseph, where he was disposing of some of the proceeds secured through the good offices of Tim Bohannon. But here is the story:

James J. Shepard is one of the Kansas City justices of the peace, and is well known over the state. He was well known to Bohannon and they were good friends. A few days before Christmas, Bohannon dropped into the office of Justice Shepard and introduced "an old valued friend of twenty years' standing" to the justice. "I was raised with this young man, judge, and he is pure 18-carat gold," Bohannon told the justice.

All Friends Together "Any friend of my friend is a friend of mine," the justice told Bohannon, and so he met W. E. Clark.

Clark told the judge he was broke but that he had a cashier's check for \$75. Being unknown in Kansas City, would the judge be so kind as to identify him? Of course the judge would. And so it came about that the friendly justice indorsed the check and introduced Clark to the powers that be at the Savoy Hotel, where the check was cashed.

## Checks Were No Good

The justice heard no more from his friends. But he did hear from the hotel. A bank cashier at Oconee, Ill., telegraphed he couldn't honor the check. No good, he said. The hotel was out \$75. So it came about that two days before Christmas the justice had to satisfy the hotel and he was out \$75.

A little investigation showed the genial justice that the friend of his friend, W. E. Clark, passed a check on a Kansas City bank for the same amount. A clothing store also was minus the same amount. A restaurant fell for the same story, and a saloon keeper lost \$62.50. More investigation showed that the cashier's checks were sent to a W. E. Clark at Joplin, Mo., and that someone ordered them forwarded to Kansas City, where the friend of Justice Shepard's friend obtained them, upon the identification of Justice Shepard's friend.

Then the Justice Got Busy Whereupon Justice Shepard's ire rose and he lost his Christmas spirit. He issued a warrant in his justice court for Clark's arrest on a charge of forgery. Clark was arrested in this city and taken back to Kansas City to face the wrath of the Kaw's mouth justice. And his wrath was so great that he then and there swore all "friends' friends" in the future. As he tersely remarked:

"It is not the seventy-five I mind so much, but when my wife read in the newspapers what became of that said seventy-five, what little Christmas spirit I had left vanished. But listen. No friends of my friends are any friends of mine," the justice added.

Read This, You Commission Cranks It has only been a little while since commission government was adopted with a great noise of hewgaws and timbrels at Joplin. Now the voters are so sick of the extravagance which follows the system that they are circulating a petition for the recall of the mayor. And in Fort Worth, Texas, and Atlanta, Ga., they are also trying to recall their commission mayors. However, our guess is it isn't so much the mayors at fault. It's the system.—Henry County Democrat.

## GOES HIM ONE BETTER

A Martin City Man Tells a Hog Yarn Which Beats Hampton's Hoggy Story

Three weeks ago this paper printed a hog story told by James H. Hampton of this city, which it was supposed was the last word in the hog endurance line. Hampton told of a hog which was inadvertently shut up under a building at Halleck, in this county, where it remained for ninety-nine days without feed or water, and came out alive, and later was converted into 300 pounds of bacon and sausage (of course, after being fed a little), of which Hampton assimilated a portion himself. This story figuratively speaking was supposed to take the prize, but it would seem that it has but started "hog yarns," and a Martin City farmer goes Hampton just a few better. This farmer told his story to the Kansas City Times, and here is how he puts it:

August 15 he helped thresh wheat on the farm of James Keltner, who lives one mile west of Martin City. The straw as it came from the blower of the machine was being stacked on the remains of a straw stack from last year. A 350-pound hog, lying asleep in the butt of the old stack, was unnoticed and all the straw from this year's crop was piled upon it.

It was not known what had become of the hog until yesterday, when it succeeded in eating its way out of the stack. It had been imprisoned there for four months and fourteen days. It weighed only sixty pounds, but seemed to be in good condition.

It is now up to Hampton to get busy—and sustain the reputation of Buchanan county.

## THE MEANEST MAN

There Are Some in St. Joseph, But This Douglas County Farmer Has Them Beaten

There are some mighty mean men in St. Joseph—some who will take the Christmas candy from a babe, and others who will absorb the contents of a crying child's milk bottle—but for a real mean disposition a Douglas county farmer takes the head of the class.

As he was driving home from town Christmas day his wagon broke down. He continued his trip under difficulties, and learned his wife was visiting at a neighbor's and that the chores were not done. This was more than he could endure, so he poured kerosene on the floors, set fire to the house, took a shotgun and killed a pen of hogs, shot a cow and was just about to shoot his team when he saw some neighbors approaching. Correctly interpreting their mental attitude toward him he took his valise, which he had saved from the fire, and started traveling. Members of his family think he has gone west, and indignant citizens of that locality hint that it will be safer for him to stay there.

## MONROE CLUB ACTS

Passes Appropriate Resolutions On the Death of the Late Clayton D. Radford

The Monroe Club held a meeting on last Saturday night, at which time an appropriate resolution to the memory of the late Clayton D. Radford was passed. The resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Clayton D. Radford has been taken from the ranks of the Democratic party and of the Monroe Club, by death, and his remains placed away on Christmas eve,

Now, on this Christmas day, 1915, at a special meeting of the directors of the Monroe Club, it is resolved that a loyal Democrat, a whole-souled fellow, a true friend and a gentleman has been removed from our midst. His public career as a Democrat and a member of the city council has met with universal public approval, and the whole city mourns his death. Democracy has lost one of its ablest advocates, the people one of their ablest defenders.

## BREAKS THE RULE

Supt. Ben Arnold Will Not Stand By the "Sleep and Work" Policy Outlined

The rule which the mayor and council sought to impose on Supt. Ben Arnold of the city workhouse, to the effect that if he gives a hobo a night's lodging he should force him to work the next day for the accommodation, is not observed by the head of the calaboose department.

"I'd have them here for life," he explained when asked why the rule was not enforced. "They want me to give some poor devil a place to bunk and then work him all day for it. What would he do the next night?"

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## SENATOR STONE ON THE WAR QUESTION

Some Big Interests That Are Trying to Foment Trouble in This Country

## THEY WOULD GLADLY WELCOME A BREAK

Missouri's Great Senator Says That These Interests Would Not Care to Go as Far as War, But They Hope to Bring About a Diplomatic Break in Order That the Entire Moral Influence of the United States Would Be Thrown Behind Great Britain and the Allies

Missouri's great senator, William Joel Stone, who is chairman of the foreign relations committee of the senate, sees trouble ahead in the attempt of influential interests in this country who are secretly seeking to bring about a diplomatic break between the United States and the central powers of Europe. A Washington dispatch says that on Monday Senator Stone advanced the idea that evidently there are men and interests in this country who would like to see a break between this country and one or all of the central powers—not that war should follow, but simply a diplomatic break, so that the entire moral influence of the United States would be thrown behind Great Britain and the Allies, and the negotiations with Great Britain over the blockade held in abeyance.

While guarded in his comment, Senator Stone said that these men, whatever their motive, apparently would be pleased if diplomatic relations were severed between Washington and Vienna, and that they would be even more gratified if such a rupture should force the United States into the position of morally supporting Great Britain and her allies. The senator conceded that if the United States did take such a course a postponement of negotiations with England over the violation of neutral rights might be the result.

## Sees No Cause for Alarm

He did not indicate that he feared such a contingency, however, and gave the impression that his greatest desire is to have the United States adhere strictly to the president's neutrality proclamation.

It is known that since the Austrian controversy became acute many members of congress have received letters of an argumentative character seeking to impress them with the advisability of cultivating the good will of England and her allies. The writers—some of them, at least—are said to be men of influence in the commercial world, but strong pro-British sympathizers. This propaganda is certain to figure in the debates on war issues soon after congress reconvenes, as certain members of congress are known to resent the unnatural tone of some of these letters coming to their desks and intend to air their opinions upon them.

## The German Viewpoint

That Germany is the only belligerent nation that has shown a disposition to make concessions to objections raised by the United States as to the conduct of the war upon the seas, and that Austria, as well as Germany, wishes to avoid a break in relations, is the German viewpoint of the present strained situation between the United States and Austria.

A source close to the German embassy, discussing the situation tonight, said: "The original statement of the Austrian admiralty following the sinking of the Ancona indicated that instructions had been issued not to fire on liners without warning, and that the admiralty sought to justify the attack on the Ancona on the ground that the steamer attempted to escape."

## Attacks Tell Another Story

"Yet the more recent attacks on liners in the Mediterranean, so far as the facts are known, would seem to indicate that Austrian submarine commanders, assuming Austrian craft made the attacks, have not been instructed to refrain from attacking steamers without warning."

"So far as Germany is concerned, she has no submarine bases in the Mediterranean."

"In the settlement of the Arabic

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